

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended). A data storage medium readable ~~only~~ by a designated data rendering system, said medium comprising  
a main data storage area configured to store main data and a data usage agreement; and  
a modifiable structure separate from the main storage area means for configured to be  
altered in a controlled and verifiable-alteration manner by an external influence, wherein in a  
manner the alteration is detectable by said designated data rendering system, and said alteration  
permanently corrupting at least part of the stored data ~~with the purpose of enforcing to enforce~~ at  
least one restrictive covenant of the data usage agreement, and wherein the stored main data is  
not accessible by the designated data rendering system until the modifiable structure is altered.
2. (Currently Amended). The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said  
medium[ ~~is~~] comprises an optically readable medium.
3. (Currently Amended). The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein at least  
part of the ~~encoded~~ stored main data ~~is data selected from a plurality comprising~~ comprises at  
least one of audio data, video data, video game, computer software, and graphical data.

4. (Currently Amended). The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said ~~means~~ ~~for medium alteration~~ modifiable structure comprises at least one structural weakness to assure irreversibility of said alteration.

5. (Currently Amended). The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said external influence[[ is]] comprises a mechanical force.

6. (Currently Amended), The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein the data storage medium is composed of one or more materials, and said alteration ~~is conducted by~~ comprises displacing at least a portion of one of the materials composing said medium.

7. (Currently Amended). The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said ~~alteration is conducted by adding~~ the modifiable structure is configured to receive additional material to said medium and upon receiving the additional material, the alteration is complete.

8. (Currently Amended). The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein access to at least ~~some~~ a portion of the ~~encoded~~ stored data is geometrically hindered prior to said ~~medium~~ alteration.

9. (Currently Amended). The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein the data storage medium is composed of one or more materials, and said alteration ~~is conducted by~~ comprises changing at least one physical property of at least ~~some one~~ one of the materials composing said medium.

10. (Original). The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said alteration is conducted by an end user.

11. (Currently Amended). The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said alteration is conducted by ~~an end user's~~ the data rendering system.

12. (Currently Amended). ~~An end user~~ A data rendering system for rendering content delivered on a ~~removable~~ data storage medium having a main data storage area and a modifiable structure separate from the main storage area enabled for controlled and verifiable alteration by an external influence in a manner detectable by said system, ~~said alteration permanently corrupting at least part of the content access data, said system storing at least part of the content access data and restricting access to at least part of the content prior to said medium alteration with the purpose of enforcing at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement,~~ the system comprising:

a reader ~~for reading the content of~~ that reads data stored in said data storage medium, the stored data including main data and a data usage agreement associated with the main data;

a memory cell ~~for storing~~ that stores access data designated to be permanently corrupted as a result of said medium alteration;

an alteration detector ~~for determining~~ that determines whether an alteration status of said data storage medium has been altered, wherein the determined alteration of the data storage medium renders access data previously stored in the data storage medium inaccessible by the system; and

a logic unit programmed to deny access to ~~at least part of said content~~ the stored main data upon detecting at least one event out of a plurality of events comprising:

an alteration of said medium has not been confirmed by said alteration detector,  
~~content~~ access data permanently corrupted as a result of controlled and verifiable medium alteration is not present in said memory cell, and

at least one restrictive covenant of said content usage agreement is not satisfied.

13. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 further comprising a message display for delivering messages to an end user.

14. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 ~~further comprising means for compatibility with respect to the types of,~~ wherein the system is capable of receiving data storage media not requiring alteration but otherwise substantially analogous to the data storage medium requiring controlled and verifiable alteration permanently corrupting at least part of the stored data by an external influence in a manner detectable by said system.

15. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 wherein access to at least ~~some~~ a portion of the ~~content~~ stored data is geometrically hindered prior to the determined controlled ~~medium~~ alteration of the data storage medium.

16. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 wherein at least ~~part~~ a portion of said ~~content~~ stored data is encrypted, and the stored access data ~~designated to be corrupted as a result of said medium alteration~~ comprises an encryption key essential for decrypting said ~~content~~ encrypted data.

17. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 wherein said logic unit is further programmed to retrieve at least one restrictive covenant of the ~~content~~ data usage agreement from the data storage medium ~~containing said content~~.

18. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 wherein said logic unit is further programmed to conduct a comparative test of at least one restrictive covenant of said ~~content~~ data usage agreement against ~~at least one parameter functionally dependent on said content's~~ a prior usage history of the stored data.

19. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 wherein said logic unit is further programmed to conduct a comparative test of at least one restrictive covenant of said ~~content's~~ data usage agreement against at least one time dependent parameter.

20. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 wherein said memory cell ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a removable modular component.

21. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12, wherein said alteration detector comprises:

\_\_\_\_\_ a light source; and

\_\_\_\_\_ an optical detector mounted in ~~[[the]]~~ vicinity of said light source, the optical detector ~~and~~ responsive to light emitted by said light source.

22. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12, wherein said alteration detector comprises:

\_\_\_\_\_ an electric power supply;

\_\_\_\_\_ a contact circuit breaker electrically connected to said power supply, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an electrical conductivity of said circuit breaker ~~being is~~ dependent on ~~[[the]]~~ an existence of mechanical contact of the contact circuit breaker with said data storage medium; and

\_\_\_\_\_an alteration signal generator electrically connected to said power supply[[ and]] wherein said contact circuit breaker is configured to ~~generating~~ generate a signal dependent on [[the]] an electrical voltage applied to said signal generator.

23. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 wherein said data reader[[ is]] comprises a reader[[ for]] configured to access an optically readable media.

24. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 wherein said external influence[[ is]] comprises a mechanical force.

25. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 12 further comprising a parameter generator configured to ~~generating~~ generate at least one parameter to be tested against at least one restrictive covenant of the ~~content~~ data usage agreement.

26. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 25 wherein said parameter generator comprises a device generating a time-dependent signal.

27. (Currently Amended). The ~~end-user~~ data rendering system according to claim 25 wherein said parameter generator comprises a device generating a signal uniquely identifying said data rendering system.

28. (Currently Amended). A method to distribute content stored on a removable data storage medium enabled for controlled and verifiable alteration by an external influence in a manner detectable by end-user's a data rendering system, ~~said alteration permanently corrupting at least part of the content access data with the purpose of enforcing at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement~~, said method comprising the steps of:

~~recording content on said medium;~~

~~— recording access data on said medium;~~

~~delivering said a medium storing content associated with access data to end-user's the data rendering system, said system restricting access to at least part of the content prior to said medium alteration;~~

storing at least part of the access data[[ by]] in said system;

altering said medium to render at least part of the access data ~~to be unreadable~~, wherein at least a portion of the content is inaccessible before said alteration;

testing conducting an alteration test of said medium for said alteration; and

retrieving at least part of the content from said medium using the access data stored[[ by]] in said system.

29. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein at least part of said content is encrypted, and the access data ~~designated to be corrupted as a result of said medium alteration~~ comprises an encryption key essential for decrypting said content.



30. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein at least part of the content[[ is]] comprises data selected from ~~a plurality comprising~~ audio data, video data, video game, computer software, and graphical data.

31. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein said medium[[ is]] comprises an optically readable medium.

32. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein said external influence[[ is]] comprises a mechanical force.

33. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein said altering is conducted by an end user.

34. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein said altering is conducted by ~~end user's~~ the data rendering system.

35. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim 28 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

\_\_\_\_\_recording usage history[[ for]] of said content;

\_\_\_\_\_conducting a comparison test of said usage history against at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement.

36. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim[[ 28]] 37 further comprising ~~the step of~~;

\_\_\_\_\_conducting a comparative test of ~~at least one~~ the retrieved restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement against at least one parameter generated by said data rendering system.

37. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim[[ 36]] 28 further comprising ~~the step of~~ retrieving at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement from the data storage medium containing said content.

38. (Currently Amended). The method to deliver content according to claim 36 wherein ~~at least one~~ said parameter[[ is]] comprises a time dependent parameter.

39. (Currently Amended). An optically readable data storage medium comprising at least one structural weakness for irreversible alteration by an external mechanical force in a manner detectable by a designated data rendering system, said alteration permanently corrupting at least part of ~~the stored~~ data stored in the medium with[[ the]] a purpose of enforcing[[ the]] a data usage agreement wherein at least part of the stored data is not accessible by the designated data rendering system until the alteration is detected.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) A data storage medium comprising:  
a main data storage area configured to store main data; and  
an alterable structure separate from the main data storage area and configured to store  
access data separate from the main data that is used to access the main data, wherein alteration of  
the alterable structure renders the access data inaccessible and the main data accessible.

44. (New) The data storage medium of claim 43, wherein the alterable structure is located  
centrally to the main data storage area.

45. (New) The data storage medium of claim 43, wherein the alterable structure is located at  
the periphery of the data storage area.